NEW-YORK, MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1879.—QUADRUPLE SHEET, WITH SUPPLEMENT.

CABUL REGAINED.

GENERAL ROBERTS VICTORIOUS. THE AFGRANS PANIC-STRUCKEN-THE ARRIVAL OF GENERAL GOUGH'S FORCES CONFIRMED.

News of an important victory has just been received by the Government in London, Last Tuesday the Afghans assembled to attack General Roberts, but he promptly sent a force against them and compelled them to fly. The rout appears to have been general. Next day General Roberts was about to reoccupy Cabul and seize the Bala-Hissar. He confirms the report that General Gough's forces have

THE AFGHANS ROUTED. A VIGOROUS ATTACK MADE BY THE BRITISH TROOPS-CABUL OPEN TO THE VICTORS.

LONDON, Dec. 28, 1879. The Vicercy of India, under date of the 27th inst., announces that telegrams from General Roberts report the defeat and dispersion of the enemy around Cabul on Tuesday last, before the arrival of General Gough.

A dispatch from General Roberts, dated Tuesday last, confirms the above, and gives details

" Desultory attacks were kept up all of yesterday. During the day information was received that a general attack would be made at daybreak to-day. A large number of the enemy were seen occupying the distant villages and approaching pearer as it became dark. At 6 o'clock this morning a fire was lighted on Asmi Heights (we had been apprised that this would be the enemy's signal for the attack), and immediately ofterward the attack was commenced on three sides. We were already prepared for it. On the south and west the enemy did not show much determination, but on the northeast corner of Behmarvo Heights some thousands collected and evidently contemplated an assault. General Hugh Gough,

ably assisted by Colonel Jenkins, commanded here. "As soon as the enemy's intention was fully developed I determined on a counter attack with cavalry and artillery. These issued by a gorge beflank and speedily dislodged them. The cavalry pursued and sabred numbers of the enemy, who retired from all points and hastily retreated to the city. We have now occupied some advanced villages, particularly those on the Bultak road. General Gough's camp is visible six miles to the east."

A dispatch from General Roberts, dated Cabul, Wednesday last, is as follows: "Our success vesterday was complete. The enemy's loss was severe. Our losses were five killed, including Captain Dundas and Lieutenant Nugent of the Engineers by a premature explosion when blowing up the towers of a neighboring village, and thirty-three wounded, the majority of whom are doing well. Those of the enemy living in Cabul went straight to their houses. after the defeat. The Kohistanis and Logaris remained in Cabul a few hours, but all fled during the night. Two of the enemy's leaders, Mushki Alim (a priest) and Mahomed Han, fled early in the day, Another prominent leader is reported to have fled with Yakoob Khan's eldest son, toward Wardak, The cavatry have gone in pursuit.

"The Bala-Hissar and the city will be taken possession of this afternoon. The former will be occupied, if it appears certain that there is no danger from hidden mines of powder. Yakoob Khan's wife and mother, and a daughter of the late Akbar Khan, who are reported to contemplate flight, and who have done all in their power to incite the Afghans,

will be brought to Shirpur to-day.
"I have telegraphed General Bright to push forward detachments from Jagdallak to Lehbaba and Lataband. I send a force to occupy Bultak tomorrow. Communication with India will thus be rapidly restored. General Charles Gough's brigade arrived this morning. A slight snow fell last night,

Akbar Khan, referred to by General Roberts, was the principal opponent of the British in 1841, and daughter is reported to have distributed £20,000 [\$97,000] among the Afghans to incite

### GENERAL ROBERTS'S CRUELTIES. AFGHANS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE SCORE-

FORTY-NINE MEN HANGED ON ONE DAY-MUT-TERINGS OF INDIGNATION IN ENGLAND,

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. LONDON, Dec. 16 .- It is not a pleasant task to write of British barbarities in Afghanistan. If the truth must be told. I have rather shirked it hitherto, for no better reason than because it was not pleasant; with some hope, also, that some of the accounts relied on by such Englishmen as have discussed the matter might turn out to be exaggerated. The unofficial accounts published before now have been, for the most part, Indian accounts; or, more accurately speaking, reports supplied by the correspondents of the Auglo Indian press. They might be gainsaid, but there was no gainsaying the official documents on which, in great part, Mr. Frederic Harrison's article in The Fortnightly Review for December was based. The proclamation of General Roberts, the dispatches of the Viceroy, cannot be thought to present a view of se case needlessly unfavorable to their authors, out still it was, in a certain sense, a case for argument. I confess I do not now see what room is left for argument. A letter in The Daily News of yesterday supplies such details as need only be stated in order to call forth the condemnation of the civilized world. They, too, are practically ofcial. Under the military press rules which British correspondents are now governed in India, no communication to the pubhe can see the light which has not previously passed the ordeal of military censorship. The British public is allowed to know so much, and only so much, as its paid servants think it to their interest to disclose. I will not stop to ask how any journal can in such circumstances, consistently with selfrespect, commission a correspondent to Cabul. Let us take things as we find them. The letter in The Daily News is a piece of state's evidence, and to be dealt with as such. It is, I should add, only the lat est of many pieces of testimony; some of them more horrible than this, and all of them together covering a much wider field, and setting forth a more awful series of atrocities than I can pretend to sum up in a

This correspondent writes from Cabul, November 12: "Hitherto," says he-that is during the six previous weeks-" the Commission has condemned all who were shown to have fought against us, at Charasiab, on the 6th of October, or on the Cabul Heights two days later." Why condemned, I ask, and to what were they condemned? They were condemned as "rebels," and the punishment was death. In what sense were they rebels! Lord Lytton tells us in his dispatch of October 18 that they were rebels because they pertinaciously opposed the British advance after warning. Lord Lytton must be understood as meaning that they were constructively rebels-rebels to the authority of the Ameer, which authority the British were constructively supporting against his sublects;-a theory that involves the further sumption that the British invasion of Afghanistan was not intended, primarily, to avenge the killing of Sir Louis Cavagnari, but to restore Yakoob Khan to the throne. Yakoob Khan meanwhile was in the British camp. Received as a guest, he was detained as a hostage, and it is now ome weeks since he was sent to India to be tried for his alleged complicity in the attack on the British Embassy in Cabul. He never at any time was the accepted ruler of Afghanistan. If he ever had been the British themselves ceased to treat him so. They set him up, and they pulled him down; and after they had pulled him down and made him prisoner and arraigned him as a criminal, they denounced as Schels the Afghans who did not recognize both the

Ameer's authority and the right of the British to enforce it. The jailer proclaimed as rebels the free men who disowned the sway of his prisoner.

Accepting this theory, let us see what was done by way of putting it in practice. Rewards were offered for all those who had fought against the British since September 3, the date of the attack on the Embass. Later, an amnesty was proclaimed for those who gave up their arms, excepting those who took part in the attack on the Embassy or who instigated the Afghan troops and people to oppose the British. Under this exception, General Roberts hanged, among others, the Chief Mollah of Cabul for preaching a religious war. It was his business to preach a religious war. He was there for that. What should we have said if Napoleon I. had hanged Paus VII. for siding with his enemies; or, to take a more modern instance, if Victor Emanuel had hanged Pius IX. for resisting his entry into Rome; or hanged the priests who preached a religious war against him, as they did all over Italy? Yet I apprehend it will be difficult to distinguish the two cases morally. The Chief of Police of Cabul was also hanged because he incited Mahometans to fight against the British at Charasiab. Charasiab is a battle which the Jingo organs in London agreed in hailing as a great British victory. The soldiers who took part in it on the Afghan side-not all, but some-and at least two of their generals, were hanged after the battle by General Roberts. If the battle had gone the other way and the Afghan leader had hanged General Roberts, the world would have echoed with denunciations of Afghan barbarity. And justly so. But in what respect is the barbarity less barbarous because Generals who boast of their 'civilization" take upon themselves the office of

The hanging policy lasted down to November 12 -our latest date by post from Camp Cabul. Down to that date, and especially during the last few days. says the correspondent whom I am quoting, the work of the Military Commission has been unusually is probable that this distasteful task of sentencing men to be hanged by the score will now be almost closed." The principle on which they were hanged we have seen already. In practice it works something like this: On the 6th seven men brought tween Behmarvo Heights, opened fire on the enemy's | in by General Gough's force from the Shutargardan and intermediate villages were hanged-not a word to show why or wherefere. Of prisoners taken in fight there were not enough to glut General Roberts's appetite. On the 8th Brigadier-General Baker went in search of fresh batches. Lest the alarm might be given, his destination was kept a secret. He took with him the 3d Sikhs, 5th Punjab cavalry and the mountain guas. They made for the Charden Valley, "the villagers of which were known to be harboring disbanded Sepoys"-in other words, the remnants of the Afghan army, which thus far escaped the British sword after their defeat at Charasiab. The valley was surrounded, the guns were trained on the village, then the Sikhs marched in. There was no resistance of any kind. The head men of the village were ordered by General Baker to bring out all Afghan Sepoys. Five minutes were allowed the head men to produce their guests; what would have happened to the head men if, at the expiration of the five minutes, the Sepoys had not been produced is not stated, but left to the cannot guess. Thirty Sepoys gave themselves up. Twenty others, down on General Baker's list, were missing : the head men were called on to account for them and forced to promise that they should be forthcoming hereafter. A fine was then imposed on the village; 120,000 pounds of grain and 600 loads of chopped straw for forage; to be delivered at Shirpur by the 15th, under pain of seeing their village destroyed by fire. It is impossible pause long enough to notice that on the 15th, the date fixed for this ransom, General Roberts was himself beleaguered in those very Shirpur cantonments; some of these villagers, perhaps, assisting in the operation.

Other villages were visited by General Baker, and more Afghan soldiers captured. Then came what is called, with grim military pleasantry, their trial. They did not attempt to give false names. rolis in Baker's possession enabled him to establish, they were then called upon to prove their "innocence," to prove that they had not been guilty of the crime of taking part in an organized military defence of their country against a foreign invader. Says our correspondent, writing with a staff officer looking over his shoulder, " such as could not give a clear account of their movements were condemned to death." Men who were fortunate enough to be able to prove by such evidence as satisfied this military tribunal " that they were absent from Cabul, lying sick in their villages, or otherwise engaged when the mutiny (!) and after events took place. were released." The others, those who at a moment's notice could not prove an alibi after such fashion as their executioners approved, were adjudged guilty, and were hanged. The number of the hanged on this one raid of General Baker was fortynine. They met their fate with a heroism which might, one would think, have extorted a word of generous recognition from their enemy. He says: "Their seeming carelessness as to their tate never varied, whether the sentence was death or acquittal." But in his eyes this is not heroism, not even manly courage; it is "fanati-British soldier, turned bangman for the nonce, be expected to discover great qualities in his wretched victims? They are the mere rank and file who go thus cheerily to the gallows; the "great regret" the hanging Briton is that he cannot hang the ringleaders instead of such "poor specimens of humanity as these marched daily to execution," who " are of but little account in our sight, and will not be missed in a country like this."

These forty-nine men were not even charged with any share in the killing of the British Euvoy. If there be any charge against them, it is that of rebellion as above stated. If any reader of mine thinks they were rebels in any such sense as to excuse the hanging of them, I have nothing more to say. But the real reason for hanging them was a very different one, and has been cynically avowed. It was necessary to "terrorize" Afghanistan. There is no public law known to Europe which permits this thing to be done, but every Anglo-Indian will tell you that in India it is impossible to act on European notions of law. He may be right, but, in that case, what one would like to ask of our Anglo-Indian friend is, why then do you invoke the sanction of European public law so long as it serves your purpose, and reject it when't stays your hand from such cruelties as these? That is a question which nobody has yet found time to answer. And there is one other question, viz., what name, in the absence of any justification by martial or other law, is to be given to these hanging; ? For myself, I should be loth to say what I thought, but an English writer has spared me the necessity. It is an English writer to-day who declares in an English journal that "if the hanging of these Afghans is not-and it is not pretended to be-an act of war; and if the punishment of death, under the name of an authority that has confessedly no existence, be not instifiable according to law, then General Roberts is guilty of murder, and may be indicted for murder at the Central Criminal Court." That is the opinion of a legal mind. I do not pretend to say that it is sound or unsound. But I think it may be said that General Roberts has treated Afghanistan as a jungle, and the Afghans as wild beasts.

THE IRISH RELIEF MOVEMENT,

DUBLIN, Dec. 28, 1879. Michael Davitt, one of the political agitators recently arrested in Dublin for seditious lan-guage at a pupilo meeting and released on bail, has

been dispatched to the West of Ireland by the Irish Land League as a commissioner for the relief of popular distress. At a meeting of the committee for the distri-bution of the Duchess of Mariborough's relief fund, it was shown that the sum of £6,400 is already available for distribution.

### GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY. Paris, Dec. 28, 1879.

A new Ministry has been constituted as

President of the Council and Minister of Foreign

Affairs-M. de Freycinet.

Minister of the Interior and of Worship-M. Lepere. Keeper of the Seals-M. Cazot.

Minister of Finance -M. Mangin.

Minister of Finance—M. Mangin.

Minister of War—General Fatre.

Minister of Marine—Admiral Jaureguiberry.

Minister of Public Instruction—M. Jules Ferry.

Minister of Works—M. Varroy.

Minister of Commerce—M. Tirvid.

Minister of Posts and Telegraphs—M. Cochery.

M. Waddington has refused to accept the post of Ambiesador to England.

The Temps asserts that M. Gambetta bad a long and cordial conference with President Grévy to-day.

Levrey Menday Dec 29, 1879.

LONDON, Monday, Dec. 29, 1879. The Temes's Paris correspondent says the elements omposing the new Cabinet are more moderate than might have been expected.

The principal feature in the reconstruction of the French Mint-try is that M. Freycinet succeeds M. Waddington, and M. Mangin takes the place of M. Say

### IRONMASTERS VERY BUSY.

LONDON, Dec. 28, 1879. The iron masters of North Staffordshire have issued circulars declining to receive further orders except subject to the prices current at the time of delivery. The trade is in a most flourishing condition, and additional furnaces are being blown.

# PRINCE BISMARCK DENIES.

BERLIN, Dec. 28, 1879. The North-German Gazette now authoritatively denies that Prince Bismarck has written to Sena tor Jacini on disarmament or any other subject.

# THE PRESIDENT OF PERU FLEEING.

LONDON, Dec. 28, 1879. The Chilian Legation at Paris announces that it has received a telegram stating that the President of Peru has arrived at Panama, en route to the United States and Europe.

### A FATAL LIQUOR DISPUTE.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Dec. 28 .- On Friday night John Vaughan, a stranger, entered the saloon o Herman Roberts and threw dice with Carson Appleby for drink. Not having money to pay therefor he became involved in a quarrel with Roberts, and, while the latter was shutting the front door, Vaughan drew a pistol and shot him. Roberts died in a few minutes. Vaughan stepping over the dead body, fled through the front door into the bush. A party of mounted men started in pur-suit and captured the murderer. Threats of lynching

### GAMBLERS ROUGHLY DISTURBED.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.-Six detachments of olice, of five men each, moved simultaneously last night upon six gambling houses, and arrested nineteen men. Three houses were "faro" and three "keno." The latter were well alled with players, who escaped through windows and over the roofs of adjoining buildings. Two wagen-loads of gambiers' implements were taken to the station-house.

### LOSS OF IDENTITY DISPELLED.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28 .- A special dispatch from St. Chairsville, Onio, to The Enquirer, reports that the unknown man whose case excited great interest in tion of facts before the time of his entering the infirm ary there in January last, has been identified as Ralph Cowles, of Cleveland. The publication of the facts in a New-York medical journal led to the identification.

# EXTREME COLD IN THE NORTHWEST.

WINNEPEG, Manitoba, Dec. 27 .- The weather has been exceptionally severe all this week. Telegraphic communication with the United States has been in terrupted in consequence. Trains on the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway have sus-needed running at night between St. Paul and the boun-dary line, and now occupy two days on the route, pas-sengers remaining over night at Breckenridge.

# LYNCH LAW IN COLORADO.

DENVER. Col., Dec. 28 .- "Sam" Woodruit and "Joe" Seminole, the latter a half-breed Indian, who murdered R. B. Hayward, a farmer of Jefferson County,

# THE LICKING RIVER RISING.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28 .- By the sudden rise in the Licking River a number of barges belonging to

# "THE UTES MUST WORK."

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: "The Utes must work for a living or get out of the way." - General Sherman, at the New Eng-In the official report of the Indian Bureau for the year

1877 can be read the following statistics: In the year 1877 the White River Utes owned 1.250 head of cattle, 20 mules, and 3,000 horses. They of skins and they sawed 57,000 feet of lumber; they cut 10 tons of hay; they raised 25 bushels of vegetables; they are re-

corded as earning 66 per cent of their subsistence. The Utes at the Los Pluos Agency owned 100 heal of cattle, 25 mules and 6,000 horses; they sold \$6,000 worth of skins and furs: they cut 100 cords of wood; bushels of vegetables, 20 bushels of onts and bar-ley and 20 bushels of wheat; they broke 20 new acres of land; they are reported as earning 45

vernment rations Wantever. Work for a living or get out of the way."

# TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

LARGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.
CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—Robert Mitchell, a wealthy turniture dealer, divided \$500,000 equally among ten members of his family on Christmas Day.

MORTALITY IN KENTUCKY PRISONS.

CINCINNATI. Dec. 28.—The death-rate at the Kentucky State Penitentiary is increasing. There were five attenuents from there yesterday, and many are sick in the uspital.

hospital.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—The Irish citizens of this city held a large meeting yesterday, and reports were made showing that about \$3,000 has been raised to assist their countrymen in Ireland in their troubles.

SUDDEN DEATH IN BUPPALO.
BUFFALO, Dec. 28.—Mrs. B. G. Carpenter, of
boalyn, N. Y. dropped dead while waiking with her husad in the street to day.

Brooklyn, A. Brooklyn, A. Brooklyn, A. Brooklyn, A. Brooklyn, A. Brooklyn, A. Brooklyn, Dead.

MILLERSBURG, Ohio, Dec. 28.—Frank Feeters was fatally shot yesteday by a man named Cady, a clerk, at Mitchell's Hotel, in the west part of Eikhart County. Alleged immorally was the cause of the strike,

THE GILROY MURDER.

CINCINNATI, 19cc. 28.—Peter Gilroy, who was resulty atabbed by wide died on Christmas night. The coroner a

KNOCKBD OVERSOARD AND DROWNED.

CAPE MAY, N. J., De., 28.—Joseph Gregory, apprentice, was knocked overboard Saturday by the main be of the pitot-boat E. C. Knight, and was drowned before could reach him. He was the son of one of the pitots. A MYSTERIOUS MURDER.
CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—The coroner's jury in the case of young Guasay Linden, who was found dead on the arrest with a revolver near his head, finds that he came to his death from a pistol abot fired by an unknown hand with murderous intent. The case is a most mysterious one.

# GREAT FIRE IN BOSTON.

SEVERAL BUSINESS HOUSES BURNED. A PAPER WARRHOUSE BURNED DOWN-THE LOSS ESTIMATED AS IMMENSE.

In Boston, about 11 o'clock last night, a fire began in the rear of a paper warehouse on Federal-st., whence it extended to Devonshire street, causing great destruction of property. The latest estimate is that the oss is at least \$2,500,000. The publishing house of Houghton, Osgood & Co. has suffered heavily. The entire Fire Department has been engaged in quelling the flames.

### A THREATENED CONFLAGRATION. WAREHOUSES BURNED-THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CALLED OUT. Boston, Mass., Dec. 28 .- About 11 o'clock tonight a fire broke out in the rear of the paper warehouse of Rice, Kendall & Co., on Federal-st., near Franklin. Their building is entirely gone, other very valuable property, including Houghton, Osgood & Co.'s publishing establishment, on Devoushire-st., and Rand & Avery's printing house on Franklin-st. 1s

in great danger. The flames are spreading rapidly, and the entire

Fire Department of the city has been called out. The fire is located in one of the most prominent business portions of the city.

SECOND DISPATCH-1 A. M. The fire is making rapid progress, a third alarm has been sounded, and the firemen are fighting to keep

the conflagration within its present limits. The fire started in the rear of Rice, Kendall & Co.'s building, and has now extended to the building occupied by the North National Bank at the intersection of Franklin and Devon-

The roof of the bank has fallen in and the entire building is ablaze, Messrs, Houghton & Osgood's loss will be immense, and the entire loss by the conflagration is estimated at between \$5,000,000

and \$6,000,000. Among the losers are the following: Sabine & Page, hardware dealers, of Nos. 105

and 107 Federal-st. Williams & Coburn, wool dealers.

The Ashton Valve Company.

D. Falkner, wool merchant. Epbraim Baker, bookbinder.

S. K. Abbot, pamphlet binder.

J. T. Crowell and others on Federal-st. The fire at present extends from Houghton &

Osgood's building to Devonshire-st. The following was received after 3 a. m., too late for the First

Edition : THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL. THREE IMPORTANT BUILDINGS TOTALLY DESTROYED

-AN EXPLOSION. Boston, Dec. 29-3 a. m .- At this hour the fire is completely under control. The loss is not so heavy as was at first intimated, though many

place it at two and a balf millions. Rand & Avery did not suffer from fire, although their stock was damaged considerably by water. The firms that have suffered a total loss are as

Rice, Kendall & Co.

Houghton, Osgood & Co.

The Union Express Company. Many of the smaller firms located on the same block on Federal and Devonshire-sts. sustained heavy damages, the extent of which it is impossible at this hour to estimate.

In addition to those already named the following

S. D. Warren, paper manufacturer,

The New-York and Beston Dispatch Company. Earl and Prews Providence Express.

The stock in Rice, Kendall & Company's establishnent was valued at nearly \$200,000, and the build-

The insurance is very heavy, and will, it is thought, cover the entire loss, but at this late hour

the lists are not obtainable. A general explosion occurred during the fire in the North Bank Building, and some of the firemen

It is impossible at this hour to ascertain in detail the insurance on the buildings burned.

### THE FIRE SEVEN YEARS AGO. A GLANCE BACK 10 THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION OF

The last great fire which visited Boston broke

out early on the evening of Saturday, Novemter 9, 1872. The first alarm was given when the flames were discovered bursting from the fourth floor of the five-story granite building on the corner of Kingston and Summer-sts. It was occupied by Tebbetts, Baldwin & Davis, dry goods jobbers: Damon, Temple & Co., dealers in fancy goods, and C. K. Young & Co., manufacturers of stays and corsets, building was in the rear of the wholesale T. Stewart & Co.'s great branch house, while the The fire spread rapidly through the entire building in which it started, and mounted to the Mansard roofs with which this and the adjoining buildings were crowned. There was a fatal delay on the part of the Fire Department in getting its apparatus The reason for this was that the horses were sick with the "epizootic," and the engines had to be drawn by hand. Meanwhile the flames drawn by had crossed the street and communicated with the Mansard toofs on either side. Both sides of Kingston-st. and Summer-st. were and it was evident that the only to be hoped for was the checking of the further spread of the flames. Aid was summoned from all the neighboring cities and towns, but the efforts to stay the progress of the fire were futile.

advanced rapidly in all directions. Southward the fire burned about half a block, Eastward it took both sides of Sumner-st., past Arch, Chauncey and Hawley-sts., and there ran diagonially to near the north-east corner of Summer and Washington-sts. Thence it ran along the east side of Washington-st, as far north as Milk. From Kingston-st. east and west the fire took both sides of Summer and Bedford-sts., and kept on until it reached the water, destroying the wharves and depot of the Hart ford and Erie Railroad. It swept northward along Devonshire, Federal and Congress-sts. Milk st. was destroyed. The territory burned over comprised about sixty acres, and the buildings swept out of existence were among the best of this kind in the United States. destruction was complete. Not building remained standing in the district traversed by the flames. The great dry goods houses, wool houses and leather houses were all in this district. One only daily newspaper was burned out, The Transcript but there was a large number of weeklies, magazines, etc., and job and book printing houses

There were 959 buildings burned, which, with their contents, made a total loss of about

\$100,000,000. All of the Boston Compa nies were made bankrupt by the losses they sustained, and several in this and other cities suffered a similar fate. The large foreign companies suffered heavily, the Liverpool, London and Globe losing about

\$1,500,000; the Queen, \$700,000, and the others in proportion. The Hartford com-panies lost in the aggregate about \$3,000,000. The loss of the insurance companie

THE FIRM OF HOUGHTON, OSGOOD & CO.

was in the aggregate about \$40,000,000.

The firm of Houghton, Osgood & Co. was formed in 1878 by the partial consolidation of the firms of A.O. Houghton & Co. and James R. Osgood & Co. After the onsolidation the new firm continued to carry on the publishing business in the Cathedral Building on Devonshirest, the old headquarters of the H. O. Houghton & Co., and the source of marvels in bookmaking and book-likestration. The Oscood firms had been for nearly fifty years the chief publishers in New Ens. and, and for many years the Houghton firms were noted for law books and works in general literature. The Honghton firms controlled the Kiverside Press, long famous for excellent work. The new firm publishes The Allantic and continues to, use the heliotype process introduced by James R. Osgood & Co. Beside the special and general publications usued by the firm may be mentioned The Postal Guide, published under the direction of the Postal Guide, published under the direction of the Post Office Department. consolidation the new firm continued to carry

### OTHER FIRES.

IN WATERTOWN, N. Y.-LOSS \$10,000.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Dec. 28.-The store, shop, goods and machinery of W. D. Chapman & Son, fishing tacle manufactory, at Theresa, N. Y., were destroyed by fire Friday. The loss is \$10,000; insured.

IN PALESTINE, TEXAS-LOSS \$50,000. PALESTINE, Texas, Dec. 28 .- An incendiary fire this morning destroyed the entire west side of the public source and block north of the source. The loss is estimated at \$50,000; insurance, \$18,000.

RESULT OF A LAMP EXPLOSION. By the explosion of a kerosene oil lamp in the window of the store of Patrick Heaney, No. 79 Fulton-st, at an early hour yesterday a fire causing \$2,000 damage was caused to the stock, which was insured for

### FERNANDO WOOD ON THE DEBT.

A BILL FOR REFUNDING THE 1881 BONDS AT 312 PER CENT NOW BEING PREPARED-THE REASONS OF MR. WOOD FOR THINKING HIS SCHEME CAN BE CARRIED OUT.

INY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.-In the course of a conversation with a TRIBUNE correspondent yesterday, Mr. Fernando Wood spoke freely on the subject of refunding that portion of the public debt which matures in 1881. In a meeting of the House Committee on Ways and Means, soon after the beginning of the present session of Congress, Mr. Wood expressed the opinion that the Government could now sell bonds bearing 312 per cent interest, and indicated a purpose to introduce a measure to effect that object. Mr. Wood is now engaged in maturing a bill on the subject, which be expects to bring forward soon after Congress reassembles. He declines at present to divulge the details of his plan, because, he says, they are subject to change and modification. In general terms, however, Mr. Wood's bill will propose an issue of bonds bearing 312 or 365100 per cent interest, and running about fifty

"Do you think the Government would find a ready sale for such bonds ?" Mr. Wood was asked. "Certainly," he replied. "I not only think so, but I know it. Not only can such bonds be readily disposed of, but within one year after they are placed on the market they will command a premium. Our 4 per cents, which mature in twenty-seven years, are selling at 104 to-day. If you will study the quotations of different securities, you will find that the time they have to run is a greater element in determining their market value than the rate of interest they pay. There is no question now of either the honesty or solvency of the United States Government, and a man who desires to make a permanent investment would sooner buy a 319 per cent bond running fifty twenty-seven years and for which he must pay a the election of members of the Legislanium of 4 per cent. This matter of whether we could sell 312 per cents is the only question at myself. He says we cannot sell them. I say we can. I have not forgotten the struggle we had in the Committee of Ways and Means when the original Funding act was under discussion. I was officials opposed it for the same reason that they now oppose the 312 per cent bond, and we were finally compelled to compromise on three classes of bonds-fives, four-and-a-halfs, and fours. We have since then refunded about \$1,400,000,000 of the

debt, more than a third of which is in 4 per cents." "Mr. Wood, two objections are urged against your plan," said the correspondent. "One is that the 4 per cent loan has become an exceedingly popular form of investment, and that any change, either in the rate of interest or in the terms of payment, would Linder the placing of a new loan. The other objection is that the new bonds would have to encounter the revival of prosperity brought about by the resumption of specie payments. It is thought that unemployed capital, now that confidence is restored and business become prosperous, would seek a more profitable form of investment than a 312 per cent bond."

"Both of those objections are fallacious," Mr. Wood quickly replied. "In the first place, the popularity' of the 4 per cents bas nothing to do with the matter. In making investments men are not governed by sentimental considerations. A man does not buy a Government bond now as an act of patriotism. In the second place, notwithstanding the revival of business and the restoration of confidence, there is a prevailing disposition among our people to invest a portion of all their savings where it will not be subject to the fluctuations and risks of business. The years of depression and distress through which the country has passed since 1873 soon forget. Within the past three years the balance of trade in favor of the United States has amounted of trade in favor of the United States has amounted to the enormous sum of \$1,000,000,000. This vast sum represents a profit which our people have realized on their productions, and it formed no inconsiderable element of the success of our refunding operations this year. Besides this, foreign investors look upon United States bonds as the safest of all investments. While I was abroad last Summer I met many of the most influential capitalists in Europe. I found everywhere a feeling of distrust toward the securities of Europeau Governments, and a feeling of perfect confidence in those of the United States. This country has in the past been looked upon abroad, and sought, as a refuge from political oppression and as a land where the poor might better their condition. Now it is looked to by wealthy capitalists, and by all who have savings, as a place where their money will be secure if permanently invested. Our credit is better than that of any European nation, even England tiself, because it is felt that our Government is less exposed to political convulsions than any of them. Why, then, should we pay a higher rate of interest than England II makes no difference, he says, whether these bonds bear 3½ per cent loan would succeed. Of the \$780,000,000 of bonds which mature within the next two years, about one-third is held by National banks to secure their circulation. It makes no difference, he says, whether these bonds bear 3½ per cent interest or 5 per cent. The remaining \$500,000,000, Mr. Wood believes, would be readily taken by our own people, without regard to a foreign demand. to the enormous sum of \$1,000,000,000. This vast

## SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN CONVENTION. PITTSBURG, Dec. 28 .- In the Socialistic Con-

vention last night the report of the Execu-

# PRICE FOUR CENTS. TWO CALAMITIES ABROAD.

A STEAMER LOST WITH ALL ON BOARD. THE ARRAGON, OF THE GREAT WESTERN STEAMSHIP

LINE, REPORTED TO HAVE FOUNDERED AT SEA-NO NEWS RECEIVED BY THE OWNERS-THE RE-PORTS CURRENT IN BRISTOL. LONDON, Monday, Dec. 29, 1879.

The Central News says reports were current at Bristol yesterday that the steamer Arragon, Captain Brown, from New York Novemfor Bristol, had foundered in the Atlantic, and all on board were lost. Her owners at present know nothing of any disaster to the vessel.

The Arragon belongs to the Great Western Steamship Line, running between this city and England, its pier being at toot of Maiden-lane, East River, and the agent being W. D. Morgan, of No. 70 South-st. Arragon was a freight steamer and carried no passengers. She was not a very large vessel for the transatiantic trade, The dispatch given above is in error in stating that the Arragon sailed on November 26. Her day of sailing was one day earlier, on November 25,

The dispatch reached this city at so late an hour that it was impossible to learn the number of persons on board the steamer, the value of the vessel and cargo, or the opinion of the agent in this city as to the correctness of the dispatch.

At the steamship pier at half past one o'clock this morning, it was stated that the Arragon was the smallest, the strongest, and, although the oldest, was considered the safest boat on the line. She was loaded with an assorted cargo of freight-batter, cheese, bacon and flour-but carried no passengers. She was comsidered to be remarkably seaworthy. The captain and the crew were English. The Arragon was announced to sail from this port

to Bristol on January 10. The steamer Arragon was built in 1869 at Glasgow, and was of 1,259 tons burden, and twenty

A SCOTCH TRAIN ENGULFED. THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE FRITH OF TAY GIVES WAY

-IWO HUNDRED LIVES PROBABLY LOST. A portion of the bridge across the Frith of Tay was blown down while a train from Edinburgh to

Dandee was crossing at 7:14 o'clock last night. The gale was so strong that steamboats were unable to reach the scene of the disaster, but several mail-bags have been been washed ashore four miles from the bridge, and there is no doubt that the

are variously estimated at from 150 to 200 in num-The gale having moderated somewhat, the Provose of Dundee and a number of leading citizens started

in a steamer to the scene of the disaster, but have

The passengers, who are certainly all drowned,

train is in the water.

not yet returned.

The excitement at Taybridge Station is appalling. Many thousands of people are congregated, awaiting definite intelligence from the accident. A later dispatch says the missing Dundec train was seen crossing the bridge, then suddenly a flash of fire became visible. The railway officials in spite of the gale walked along the bridge from

caused by the fall of two or three of the largest spans. The Frith of Tay lies mostly between the counties of Fife and Foriar, joining the German has given way was deemed the greatest work of its kind

Dundee until they found there was a large gap,

### in the world. It consists of a series of piers and spans with lattice girding. PETITIONS FOR PEACE IN MAINE.

PETITIONS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE TO THE

GOVERNOR-THE VOICE OF THE PULPIT. Augusta, Dec. 28 .- Numerous petitions were forwarded to Governor Garcelon to-night urging years at par than a 4 per cent which matures in that he will refer all matters in dispute touching sends five signed by many Democrats and issue between the Secretary of the Treasury and Greenbackers. Portland sends three. The Hon. William L. Putnam, with Emery S. Ridlon, send petitions differently worded from the others, praying that the matters in dispute be referred to the Court. Thirteen ministers, including Bishop Nealy in favor of a 4 per cent bond then. The Treasury of the Episcopal Church, and the Rev. Thomas Hill, ex-President of Harvard College, and representatives a petition headed by Thomas Lombard, esq., a prominent Demecrat, and signed by three ex-Gov-ernors—Joseph H. Williams, Anson P. Morrill and

Selden Connor. At a meeting of the citizens of Augusta Saturday evening, ten of the number were appointed to cooperate with the civil authorites in measures for preserving peace and for the protection of the city during the present excitement. The Rev. H. W. Tilden, pistor of the Baptist Church, delivered a lecture this evening to a large audience upon the topic of the count the Governor and Council. Reading from the Constitution and the laws, he maintained that the Governor and Council had trampled upon them. The question was, Shall we be denied the right of suffrage f But he said no; never, at whatever cost. The people knew their rights, and would never yield. Mob violence would settle nothing whatever, but open, systematic war would, if it

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 28 .- The Rev. James Howhinnie, paster of the Free Street Baptist Church, preached to-day from the text : " Thouart weighed to-day in the balance and found wanting." He said I speak as a minister of the Gospel of honesty and rightcousness, and in the name of that Gospel do denounce against honesty and righteousness which our State is now witnessing. Shame on the man who on the petty excuse that he has a certificate in his pocket, takes a seat in the Legislature as an officer. to which the people have not sent him. The Rev. H. W. Lathe, paster of the Plymouth Congregational Church, in the course mouth Congregational Church, in the course of his sermon to-day, said: "If the rights of the citizens of this State are invaded by the Governor, no man desires peace at the expense of righteoneness. Everyone confesses that the stirring up of passion and the conflict of fongues is bad, but every one knows that there is something even worse than that submission to evil rule. Moreover eyery one who advacates resistance to their rulers now does so for the sake of peace in the future. It is a conflict to-day that there may be well-grounded peace to-morrow."

PUTTING THE FRAUD BRAND ON GARCELON.

I know that Governor Garcelon is acting